



## Foster Care Awareness Campaign

Make A Difference...One Child at a Time

March 22, 2005

To Our Fellow Clergy:

### ADVISORY BOARD

The Rev. J. Edwin Bacon  
All Saints Episcopal Church

Peggy Belcher-Dixon  
Faith Communities for Families  
and Children

Rabbi Mark Diamond  
The Board of Rabbis of Southern  
California

Father Alexei Smith  
Archdiocese of Los Angeles

With over 26,000 abused and neglected children in out of home care, Los Angeles has one of the largest foster care systems in our country. All of us, collectively, “parent” these children and are responsible for their future success.

We urge you to speak out during the annual Los Angeles Foster Care Awareness Campaign in May and help make your congregants aware of the importance of getting involved on behalf of these children.

Included in this packet are materials to help you shape messages for sermons on this topic or enable you to call on our speakers bureau to come and talk to members of your congregation.

We have designated Mothers Day weekend, May 7-8, as the most opportune time in May when we are hoping members of the clergy throughout Los Angeles will discuss the challenges and concerns facing the children in our community who are part of our foster care system. We hope you will join us that weekend in delivering a sermon on these issues - or inviting a member of the speakers bureau to speak to your congregation. In addition, there will be posters to display and graphics to include in bulletins and newsletters.

You are also invited on May 4<sup>th</sup> to attend a special tour of the unique Children’s Court in Monterey Park. This tour will give you an opportunity to find out how our juvenile dependency court operates by visiting courtrooms in action and talking with bench officers and attorneys who oversee the needs of children living in foster care. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Roxana Cota at (323) 980-1587.

Please join us in underscoring the importance of engaging our community in helping abused and neglected children lead more productive lives. For more information about this project, additional large posters, or electronic versions of Awareness Campaign materials, contact Sharon Appel at Children’s Law Center of Los Angeles (323) 980-1589.